Minister concerned of two States on 18.12.2006. No solution acceptable to both States emerged in these meetings.

Further, Hon'bie Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *vide* letter dated 20.12.2007 informed that he had a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources on 19.12.2007 where he suggested to oversee the seepage measurement of the dam by engineers not belonging to either of the two States through CWC and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala agreed to consider them. Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala *vide* letter dated 11.2.2008 addressed to Hon'ble Minister (WR) informed that the suggesion put forward by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to get seepages in the dam examined by the experts has been accepted by the Kerala.

Commercial use **of ground water**

1234. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether a hunge quantity of ground water is being used for commercial purposes by the soft.drink and bottled drinking water companies;

if so, the details thereof;

whether the water tables are dipping as a result of ground water being drawn by these companies;

if so, the details thereof;

whether the Central Ground Water Authority has laid any norms in this regard;

if so, the main features thereof; and

whether these norms are being strictly followed by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (g) Major share of ground water utilization in the country is for agricultural purposes. The studies conducted by Central Ground Water Board reveal that the water tables are dipping due to cumulative effect of domestic, agricultural and industrial uses, including withdrawals of ground water by soft drinks and bottled drinking water companies.

The Central Ground Water Authority has issued guidelines for regulation of withdrawal of ground water in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas. States have been requested to take steps to implement these guidelines.

Grants under AIBP

t l235. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has made a provision for giving thirty per cent grant under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

whether the State Governments have to make arrangement for the remaining seventy per cent;

whether Government would give approval to provide seventy per cent of fund as loan in order to make available funds for the State Government keeping in view the majority of tribals, forest dwellers and the poor in Madhya Pradesh; and

if so, by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per the guidelines of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme in force, the funding pattern for major/medium projects and surface water minor irrigation schemes is as under:

(i) Major/medium irrigation projects and surface water minor irrigation schemes of Special category States and Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa are eligible for 90% grant of project cost included in AIBP.

(ii) Major/medium projects benefiting drought prone/tribal/flood prone area are eligible for upto 90% grant of project cost included in AIBP depending on extent of such area benefited from project and included in AIBP.

(iii) Surface water minor irrigation schemes of Non Special Category States (which also include Madhya Pradesh) eligible for inclusion in AIBP as per guidelines are also eligible for 90% grant.

(iv) All other major/medium projects are eligible for 25% grant of project cost included in AIBP.

The balance cost is to arranged by the State Governments from their own resources which may also be arranged by the State Governments by market borrowings for which approval of Government of India is not required.

Bagmati multipurpose project

t 1236. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government has accorded approval to Bagmati multipurpose project, Mahananda dam-canal project, Kamala river dam project for the sake of flood management in Bihar;

if so, the details thereof alongwith its total cost and desired result; and

whether it is also a fact that town of Darbhanga submerges by floods caused by Bagmati every year and no arrangement has been made to remedy this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In order to control the floods in rivers Bagmati, Mahananda and Kamala-Balan in North Bihar, the Government has 'in principle' accepted three schemes during 91st meeting of Advisory Committee for consideration of techno-economic viability of Irrigation, flood control and multi-purpose

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.